

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)
To:
CC:
Date: 12/3/2013 4:47:30 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 12/3/13

OPA Daily Digest for 12/3/13

Congressional Inquiries:

[None](#)

State Government Inquiries:

Gov. Terry Branstad (Iowa) 12/2/13: Questions on RFS hearing and meeting with Administrator. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) 11/29/13: Questions on the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Tom Sloan (Kan) 12/3/13: Questions on the LGAC. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Scripps - Mark Greenblatt – 11/22/13 – (Phase III) Follow-up questions regarding the status of the Doe Run consent agreement. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Iowa Energy Center – Elizabeth Zabel – 12/3/13 – Questions regarding ethanol and the Renewable Fuel Standard. Referred her to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Omaha World-Herald – Cole Eppley – 12/2/13 - Questions regarding ethanol and the Renewable Fuel Standard. Referred her to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Miami Herald (Fla.) – Amy Sherman – 12/3/13 – Questions regarding the shutdown of the Doe Run primary smelter in Herculaneum, Mo. Assisted EPA press office in answering questions. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Des Moines Register – Donelle Eller – 12/3/13 – Questions regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard public meeting in Washington. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

KMOV-TV, Channel 4 St. Louis – 12/3/13 – Questions about sewer infrastructure costs and EPA requirements. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Nebraska Radio Network - Coal industry: Proposed EPA rules will mean higher power bills - 12/2/13 - About 70% of the electricity used in Nebraska homes and businesses comes from coal-fired power plants and the nation's coal industry contends proposed federal regulations will "make it almost impossible" to build new coal plants in America. <http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2013/12/02/coal-industry-proposed-epa-rules-will-mean-higher-power-bills/>

Lake News Online (Mo.) - DNR denies loan for sewer district - 12/2/13 - A sewer project in Rocky Mount plagued by protests and a lawsuit was dealt another blow with the rejection of a low interest state loan. <http://www.lakenewsonline.com/article/20131202/NEWS/131209839>

Associated Press - Iowa approves Alliant relaxed efficiency plan - 12/2/13 - The Iowa Utilities Board on Monday approved a plan by Alliant Energy to reduce its required energy efficiency goals for 2014 through 2018. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20131202/BUSINESS/131202028/iowa-approves-Alliant-relaxed-efficiency-plan>

Des Moines Register - State wants renewable-energy lawsuit thrown out - 12/1/13 - Months after an environmental group sued state officials alleging Missouri is not fully implementing a renewable energy law passed by voters, the state is trying to get the lawsuit thrown out. <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20131202/NEWS11/312020015/Missouri-renewable-energy-lawsuit>

Des Moines Register - Environmental groups say Interstate Power's energy efficiency plan should be stronger - 12/3/13 - Environmental groups say the state has failed to push Alliant Energy's Interstate Power & Light far enough on saving energy over the next five years. The Iowa Utilities Board approved utility's energy efficiency plan on Monday. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/03/environmental-groups-say-interstate-powers-energy-efficiency-plan-should-be-stronger/>

AgWeb - EPA: Friend or Foe of the Farmer? (+video) - 12/3/13 - Cattle roaming the land. Lush green corn lining country roads. This is the picture of American agriculture; a picture the Environmental Protection Agency tells us they want to not only stay, but to be even more efficient in the future. http://www.agweb.com/article/epa_friend_or_foe_of_the_farmer_NAA_Tyne_Morgan/

Des Moines Register - Branstad to testify at EPA hearing on Renewable Fuel Standard, backing ethanol industry - 12/3/13 - Gov. Terry Branstad said today that he will be testifying Thursday at a public hearing in Virginia sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on a proposed rule to weaken the federal government's Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/12/03/branstad-to-testify-at-epa-hearing-on-renewable-fuel-standard-backing-ethanol-industry/>

Radio Iowa - Branstad to tout ethanol in Virginia Thursday; subject not raised during Monday trip to Texas - 12/3/13 - Iowa Governor Terry Branstad heads to Virginia later this week to testify at a public hearing over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to reduce the amount of ethanol fuel that must be produced in the U.S. in 2014. "I think the EPA is making a huge mistake," Branstad said today during his weekly news conference. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/12/03/branstad-to-tout-ethanol-in-virginia-thursday-subject-not-raised-during-monday-trip-to-texas/>

National Journal - Iowa Governor to Lobby EPA on Cutbacks to Corn Ethanol - 12/3/13 - If at first you don't succeed, lobby a different federal agency. That seems to be the approach Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is taking in his defense of the renewable-fuel standard. The five-term corn-country executive will testify Thursday at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing on its proposed reductions to the corn ethanol mandate and some other renewable fuels. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/iowa-governor-to-lobby-epa-on-cutbacks-to-corn-ethanol-20131203>

Domestic Fuel - ACE to Testify in Support of RFS at EPA Hearing - 12/2/13 - Brian Jennings, executive vice president for the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE), along with ACE officials and members will be testifying against EPA's proposed 2014 Renewable Fuel Standard rule during the EPA's public hearing in Crystal City, Virginia on Dec.5. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/12/02/ace-to-testify-in-support-of-rfs-at-epa-hearing/>

Brownfield Ag News - Nebraska farmer will testify at EPA's RFS hearing - 12/3/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a hearing Thursday in Washington on its proposal to reduce the ethanol volume requirement in the Renewable Fuels Standard. One of the farmers who will be testifying is Joel Grams of Minden, Nebraska, president of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA). <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/12/02/epa-opens-comment-period-for-rfs/>

Trade Only Today - EPA hearing on ethanol set for Thursday - 12/3/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a hearing Thursday to receive testimony on a proposal

that would lower the required amount of ethanol in the fuel supply for the first time ever. The EPA, though often scapegoated as having made the requirement, is actually required by Congress to adhere to the Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.tradeonlytoday.com/2013/12/epa-hearing-ethanol-set-thursday/>

Quad-City Times - Towboat owner says it will pay costs of sinking - 12/3/13 - The company that owns a towboat that sank in the Mississippi River in LeClaire pledged to pay all the costs of the accident and to ensure the area is thoroughly rid of spilled fuel. http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/towboat-owner-says-it-will-pay-costs-of-sinking/article_6c83284d-92d7-53cd-bd91-7b3f63a0590c.html

Iowa Farm Bureau (release) - Video: "Ethanol and Biofuels" - 12/2/13 - Learn more from Robert Brown on what the public should better understand about corn-based ethanol, the future potential for biofuels to positively impact the environment and how ISU research leads the way in putting agriculture to work for energy and biobased products. <http://www.iowafarmbureau.com/articles/105549/video-ethanol-and-biofuels>

Washington Times - Opinion: Obama's EPA closing smelter will not affect ammunition supply - 12/3/13 - Make no mistake, Mr. Obama and his gun-grabbing cohorts around the country want to infringe on the Second Amendment whenever possible. However, in the case of the lead smelter closing, gun owners ought not to be up in arms. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/dec/2/obamas-epa-smelter-closing-will-not-affect-ammunit/>

The Blaze (blog) - Rumor Check: Did Obama Close a Lead Plant in Order to Enact 'Backdoor' Gun Control? - 12/2/13 - Did the White House shutter the country's last primary lead smelting plant in Herculaneum, Mo., in a sneaky attempt by to enact "backdoor" gun control and quietly take aim at the gun industry as some people, including former Rep. Allen West, have suggested? The short answer: Not exactly. <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/12/02/rumor-check-did-obama-close-a-lead-plant-in-order-to-enact-backdoor-gun-control/>

Huffington Post - Allen West Accuses Obama, EPA Of Back Door Gun Control - 12/2/13 - Former Rep. Allen West (R-Fla.) accused President Barack Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency of advancing "back door gun control ... while we are all distracted with Obamacare and Iran nuclear negotiations" in an editorial on his website Sunday. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/02/allen-west-gun-control_n_4372630.html

American Thinker (blog) - Administration using EPA for 'back door gun control' - 12/3/13 - It seems that back door gun control is in full effect in the United States. Why? Thanks to Obama's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we can no longer smelt lead from ore in the United States. http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/12/administration_using_epa_for_back_door_gun_control.htm I

The Hill (blog) - EPA to be 'flexible' on carbon standards - 12/2/13 - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy on Monday said her agency would give states great flexibility in meeting new requirements for carbon emissions from power plants. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/191743-epa-to-be-flexible-with-states-on-carbon-standards>

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier (Iowa) - Waterloo, EPA negotiate Clean Water Act claims - 12/2/13 - City Council members voted unanimously Monday to approve a pact with the U.S. Justice Department to stop the clock until September 2014 for potential claims the Environmental Protection Agency may have against the city. http://wfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/waterloo-epa-negotiate-clean-water-act-claims/article_0dc21f1b-ea87-5806-b1bb-40d35acab8ae.html

Forbes - Why The Utility Death Spiral Myth Needs To Die - 12/2/13 - The blogosphere has been abuzz lately with rumors of a distributed generation-induced utility death spiral. Generally speaking, utilities socialize the cost of maintaining the electric power grid across their customer base. The costs imposed on each customer is a function of the size of the customer base. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2013/12/02/why-the-utility-death-spiral-myth-needs-to-die/>

Politix - Gun-Owners, Relax! Obama's EPA Is Not Raising Ammo Prices - 12/2/13 - Gun owners have one less thing to worry about, as it turns out that the closure of a lead smelter by the EPA will not affect bullet production in America. <http://politix.topix.com/homepage/9226-gun-owners-relax-obamas-epa-is-not-raising-ammo-prices>

Greenwire - McCarthy's chief of staff -- a former prosecutor -- won't back down - 12/3/13 - U.S. EPA's new chief of staff doesn't scare easily. Gwen Keyes Fleming is a former

district attorney who's gone nose to nose in the courtroom with accused murderers, drug dealers, corrupt officials and other bad guys.

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991132>

Los Angeles Times - Power struggle: Green energy versus a grid that's not ready - 12/2/13 - Minders of a fragile national power grid say the rush to renewable energy might actually make it harder to keep the lights on. <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-grid-renewables-20131203.0.1019786.story>

Huffington Post - EPA Chief Thinks China Is Poised For A Green Revolution - 12/2/13 - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday that China is where the U.S. was in the 1950s and '60s, namely, on the cusp of a major push for environmental action. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/02/china-climate-epa_n_4372977.html

Mother Jones - The EPA's Bold New Agenda - 12/2/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency has released its to-do list for 2014, in the form of its annual regulatory agenda. And it calls for tackling some controversial environmental questions that Congress has been unable to resolve. <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2013/12/epa-regulatory-agenda-2014>

Science World Report - How to Boost Environmental Concern: Emphasize the Future, Not Imminent Doom - 12/2/13 - As the climate warms and changes, scientists are trying to find ways to boost the public's interest and concern for the environment. It turns out that one way to encourage environmentally-friendly behavior is to emphasize the long life expectancy of a nation, and not necessarily its imminent downfall. <http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/11312/20131202/boost-environmental-concern-emphasize-future-imminent-doom.htm>

E&E Daily - Steyer: I'm in oil sands fight for the long haul - 12/3/13 - Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer yesterday embraced the white-hot spotlight of climate politics, a niche he expects to occupy well into the 2014 midterm elections -- and even after President Obama rules on Keystone XL. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059991185/>

Christian Science Monitor - Behind the scenes at Canada's oil sands - 12/2/13 - Energy analyst Robert Rapier recounts a tour of Canada's Athabasca oil sands and explains the controversial method for producing oil from the oil sands. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/1202/Behind-the-scenes-at-Canada-s-oil-sands>

Greenwire - Lawmakers, local officials warn EPA against limiting 'blending' ruling - 12/2/13 - Cities, counties, wastewater treatment officials and federal lawmakers are warning U.S. EPA that there is "no legal basis" to avoid applying nationally a federal appeals court ruling dealing with wet weather discharges. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991147/>

E&E News PM - RGGI urges EPA to remember 'early mover states' in existing power plant rule - 12/3/13 - U.S. EPA should craft its guidance for existing power plants in a way that doesn't penalize states that have already taken steps to rein in their carbon dioxide emissions, members of the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative said today in comments to the agency. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059991166/>

Greenwire - PA to take 'close look' at Harvard methane study -- McCarthy - 12/2/13 - U.S. EPA will examine a Harvard University study that said emissions of methane were as much as 50 percent higher than the agency had previously estimated and possibly incorporate the research into future work, Administrator Gina McCarthy said today. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991153/>

Inside EPA - Environmentalists Target PCB Waste Waiver - 12/2/13 - Several environmental groups are suggesting they will sue EPA if the agency proceeds with plans to grant power companies a blanket variance from federal toxics regulations to allow for the disposal of utility remediation wastes with low levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. <http://insideepa.com/201312022454470/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/environmentalists-target-pcb-waste-waiver/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - Updated EPA Agenda Includes Few New Policies, Extends Rules' Deadlines - 12/2/13 - EPA's recently updated regulatory agenda for fall 2013 includes few new air, waste, water or toxics policies and also extends self-imposed deadlines for a suite of regulations compared to the previous spring 2013 agenda. <http://insideepa.com/201312022454536/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/updated-epa-agenda-includes-few-new-policies-extends-rules-deadlines/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Chief Highlights 'Challenge' In Fracking Studies, Regulatory Authority - 12/2/13 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is acknowledging the agency's "challenge" in studying potential adverse drinking water effects from hydraulic fracturing, as well as its limited regulatory authority over fracking.

<http://insideepa.com/201312022454551/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-chief-highlights-challenge-in-fracking-studies-regulatory-authority/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Urged To Adopt Strict Biomass Greenhouse Gas Accounting Method - 12/2/13 - Dozens of scientists are urging EPA to adopt a strict approach for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from biomass that would discourage the practice of using whole trees to produce electricity.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-12/03/2013/epa-urged-to-adopt-strict-biomass-greenhouse-gas-accounting-method/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - EPA's Chief ALJ Seeks To Limit Congress' Influence In Pending Suits - 12/2/13 - EPA's Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is urging the agency's congressional affairs office to stop forwarding lawmakers' correspondence regarding pending administrative cases to ALJs because the ex parte communications may be unlawful.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-12/03/2013/epas-chief-alj-seeks-to-limit-congress-influence-in-pending-suits/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Nutrient Guides Appear To Give Conflicting Advice To State Regulators - 12/2/13 - Two recent EPA guidances seeking to clarify requirements for state nutrient rules appear to provide contradictory advice to regulators, industry and environmentalists say.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-12/03/2013/epa-nutrient-guides-appear-to-give-conflicting-advice-to-state-regulators/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - Free-Market Group Weighs Call For EPA To Limit Scope Of Utility NSPS - 12/3/13 - The free-market American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is poised to debate two model resolutions urging EPA to give states a "proper" role in crafting the agency's utility new source performance standards (NSPS) and opposing EPA's plan to mandate carbon capture as part of its NSPS for newly constructed coal-fired power plants.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201312032454582/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/free-market-group-weighs-call-for-epa-to-limit-scope-of-utility-nsps/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Industry Says Carbon Cost Values Should Account For EPA Utility NSPS - 12/2/13 - A major industry coalition is asking the Department of Energy (DOE) to scrap upwardly revised social cost of carbon (SCC) estimates for two proposed efficiency standards, saying the values are flawed.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201312022454468/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/industry-says-carbon-cost-values-should-account-for-epa-utility-nsps/menu-id-202.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

La EPA y el DOE publican guía anual de eficiencia de combustible para vehículos modelos del 2014 – 12/3/13 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/5/13 – RA Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/10/13 – EJ Small Grant Event, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Brendan Corrazin, 7429

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

12/5-6/13 – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

***12/4/13** – EPA, Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration, and the Nebraska Emergency Response Commission hosting a joint, grants training workshop, Regional Office. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

***12/5/13** – Kansas Emergency Response Commission meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

12/12/2013 – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

***12/12/13** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Pat Reitz, 7674

***12/18/13** – Missouri Ag Conference, Columbia, Mo. Contacts: Pat Reitz, 7674 and George Hess, 7540

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

12/4-6/13 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

12/3-4/13 - SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

12/10-11/13 – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set-Aside Review / Public Water System Supervision meeting, Des Moines, Ia. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/10-11/13 – University of Iowa Extreme Weather Conference, Des Moines, Ia. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

12/16/13 – Environmental Protection Agency / Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Water System Supervision meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/18/13 – Area Wide Drinking Water Optimization meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

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